Fulbright Denies Talk Called for Appeasement

By Warren Duffee
United Press International

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) yesterday rejected Republican charges that he was guilty of "appeasement." He said that if the GOP wanted to make foreign policy a major campaign issue, "let's talk about it and try to get some accurate assessments."

The Senate Foreign Relations Commitee chairman said that was the main reason for his major foreign policy speech Wednesday calling for a revised look at U.S. policy toward Panama and Cuba.

Fulbright said that some Republican presidential hopefuls such as Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (Ariz.), and Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, "have said foreign policy is a main issue" and other Republicans have complained about lack of Administration action on Cuba.

"I thought we ought to put it all out on the table and see what the facts are in each case," he said. "I don't consider that appeasement or 'being soft on communism.' It's just common sense."

Fulbright said his wide-ranging Senate speech "has nothing whatsoever to do with the Administration" and was entirely "my own views." He denied any part of the speech was in the nature of a "trial balloon" and said he had not heard from either the White House or the State Department since the talk.

Earlier yesterday the Republican National Chairman, William E. Miller, charged that Fulbright was advocating "the same road which Neville Chamberlain traveled in the 1930s." Miller termed the speech a "trial balloon which the Johnson Administration is sending up to prepare public opinion for the acceptance of a foreign policy that could lead only to disaster."

The White House said Wednesday that Fulbright was not voicing Administration policy.

Much of the criticism drawn by Fulbright centered on his statement that the United States should recognize that Castro's Cuban regime is a reality likely to remain indefinitely but which is "not a grave threat to the United States."

[In the House, the speech was denounced by Republicans until Speaker John W. McCormack cracked down on them, Associated Press reported.

[House rules prohibit any member from referring to remarks made in the Senate, on the ground that it might lead to "misunderstanding" between the two chambers. McCormack was lenient with the critics but finally banged his gavel, read the rule, and said no more comments would be permited.]

Reaction to Sen. Fulbright's speech on foreign policy indicates that plain speaking no longer is a virtue. *Aage A17*

Fulbright appeal for re-evaluation of U.S. policy on Cuba not likely to have any effect very soon. *Page A17*

Rep. Armistead Selden (D-Ala.), Chairman of the House Latin American affairs subcommittee, called Fulbright's view of Cuba "a degree of aloof disregard unparalleled since the London Times was rationalizing the Hitler menace for Englishmen in the 1930s." Selden also defended U.S. actions in Panama.

Rep. Louis Wyman (R-N.H.), said Fulbright's proposals amounted to "surrender on the installment plan." Rep. Steven Derounian (R-N.Y.), said "Castro is probably getting a medal cast for him in Cuba today."

But Rep. Donald Fraser (D-Minn.), called Fulbright "courageous." Fraser said he did not agree with all of Fulbrights points but that he felt every American should read the speech.